

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME CIRCLE: INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS.

VOL. VI. NO. 51.

EASTMANVILLE, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1857.

WHOLE NO. 311.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING.

EASTMANVILLE, MICHIGAN.

EASTMAN & CO., PROPRIETORS.

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One week.	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500
Two weeks.	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900	3000
Three "	150	300	450	600	750	900	1050	1200	1350	1500	1650	1800	1950	2100	2250	2400	2550	2700	2850	3000	3150	3300	3450	3600	3750	3900	4050	4200	4350	4500
One month.	200	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200	3400	3600	3800	4000	4200	4400	4600	4800	5000	5200	5400	5600	5800	6000
Two months.	300	600	900	1200	1500	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900	4200	4500	4800	5100	5400	5700	6000	6300	6600	6900	7200	7500	7800	8100	8400	8700	9000
Three "	400	800	1200	1600	2000	2400	2800	3200	3600	4000	4400	4800	5200	5600	6000	6400	6800	7200	7600	8000	8400	8800	9200	9600	10000	10400	10800	11200	11600	12000
Six "	500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500	5000	5500	6000	6500	7000	7500	8000	8500	9000	9500	10000	10500	11000	11500	12000	12500	13000	13500	14000	14500	15000
Nine "	600	1200	1800	2400	3000	3600	4200	4800	5400	6000	6600	7200	7800	8400	9000	9600	10200	10800	11400	12000	12600	13200	13800	14400	15000	15600	16200	16800	17400	18000
One year.	1000	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000	7000	8000	9000	10000	11000	12000	13000	14000	15000	16000	17000	18000	19000	20000	21000	22000	23000	24000	25000	26000	27000	28000	29000	30000

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY-1857.

AUGUSTUS W. TAYLOR.

Judge of Probate for Ottawa County, Michigan. Office with the County Treasurer, Grand Haven. Papers and business communications transmitted to the Court, through favor of H. D. Post, Holland, or left with Mr. Henry Brower, Grand Haven, will receive prompt attention. Court days, first and third Mondays of each month. P. O. address, Ottawa Center, Ottawa Co. Mich.

JAMES P. SCOTT.

Clerk and Register of Ottawa County, Michigan, and Notary Public. Grand Haven.

TIMOTHY FLETCHER.

Treasurer of Ottawa County, and Notary Public. Grand Haven.

CURTIS W. GRAY.

Sheriff of Ottawa County. Grand Haven.

B. HOPKINS.

Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Court Commissioner, for Ottawa County. Grand Haven.

JAMES SAWYER.

County Surveyor. P. O. Address, Eastmanville.

COMER B. SHAW.

Notary Public for Ottawa Co. Eastmanville.

R. W. DUNCAN.

Attorney at Law, and Solicitor in Chancery; also Agent for obtaining Bounty Lands, and collecting claims against the United States, in connection with a general agency at Washington. Office third door below the Washington House, Grand Haven.

GROSVENOR REED.

Attorney and Counselor at Law. All business entrusted to me will be promptly and satisfactorily attended to. Residence, Charleston Landing, Ottawa Co., Mich.

J. B. McNETT.

Physician and Surgeon. Dr. McNett is now permanently located in this village, and will attend to all calls in his profession. Office at the residence of Mr. Hiram Bean, corner of Washington and Water sts., Grand Haven.

STEPHEN MONROE.

Physician and Surgeon. Office one door west of J. T. Davis' Tailor shop, Washington street, Grand Haven.

DR. L. A. ROGERS.

Surgeon Dentist. May be found during business hours, at his office, in Dr. Shepard's New Block, Monroe street. Grand Rapids, Mich.

CUTLER & WARTS.

Dealers in Fancy and Staple Dry Goods, of all kinds, Groceries, Provisions, Crockery, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, etc., etc. Water street, Grand Haven.

ALBEE & HUNTING.

Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Hardware Crockery, Boots and Shoes, etc., etc. Corner of Washington and Water Sts., Grand Haven.

HENRY GRIFFIN.

Commission Merchant and General Agent, Dealer in Salt, Flour, Dry and Green Groceries, Provisions, Family Groceries, Drugs, Medicines, Perfumery, etc., etc., Opposite the Washington House, Grand Haven.

W. D. FOSTER & CO.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Hard and Hollow Ware, Iron, and Manufacturers of Tin and Sheet-Iron Ware, foot of Monroe street, Grand Rapids.

C. DAVIS & CO.

Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Hardware, Crockery, Boots and Shoes, etc., etc. Muskegon, Mich.

A. L. CHUBB.

Manufacturer of Plows, Cultivators and Grain Cradles, and Dealer in all kinds of Agricultural Implements and Machines. Agricultural Warehouse, Canal street. Grand Rapids.

FERRY & CO.

Manufacturers of Lumber, and Dealers in all kinds of Merchandise, Provisions, Shingle Bolts, and Shingles. THOS. W. FERRY. NOAH H. FERRY. White River, Ottawa Co., Mich.

HOPKINS & BROTHER.

Storage, Forwarding and Commission Merchants, General Dealers in all kinds of Dry Goods, Groceries, Grain and Provisions, Manufacturers and Dealers wholesale and retail in all kinds of lumber. Mill Point, Mich.

LAMONT MILLS.

THOMAS B. WOODBURY, PROPRIETOR. LAMONT, OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

Cash paid for wheat. 123¢.

OTTAWA IRON WORKS.

FERRYSBURG, OTTAWA COUNTY, MICH.

WM. M. FERRY, Jr., Manufacturer of Stationary and Marine, high or low pressure Engines, Mill Gearing, Iron and Brass Castings. Post Office address, Grand Haven, Mich.

1857. CUTLER & WARTS, 1857.

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise, Flour, Salt, Grain, Lumber, Shingles and Lath.

Water street, Grand Haven, Mich.

Ottawa County Agricultural Society.

Address of JESSE B. THOMAS, Esq., delivered before the Second Annual Fair of the Ottawa County Agricultural Society, at Eastmanville, September 24th, 1857.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The occasion upon which you are assembled is one which in all ages has excited the attention of mankind.—The Harvest Home, when the bright sheaves are gathered into the garner, and the bending boughs give up their ripened fruit, has been the poet's theme, the emblem of rejoicing, everywhere. When the sword of fire had driven our first parents forth from Eden, and they were compelled by "the sweat of their brow to earn their daily bread," they and their descendants did not fail, as the earth yielded its increase, to bring of its first fruits, as a tribute to him, through whose forbearance, though outcasts, they still were fed. The ceremonies then instituted, were embodied in the Jewish ritual, and year by year, the fathoms of the flock and the products of the soil smoked on the altar of thanksgiving, the emblems of their gratitude. The Greek and Romans too, held their *dies festi*, when crowning their beasts of the plough with garlands, and poured forth their old Falernian wine, they sang the praises of Bacchus and Ceres and all the Gods. And then when the desolating horde from the Northern Hive, swept down upon the southern homes of civilization, and Feudalism trod out beneath its iron heel, nearly every vestige of systematic attention, still lords and ladies in their rude manorial halls, with wild Boars head and wassail bowl before them, amid all the grosser indulgences of semi-barbarous life, celebrated the recurrence of their scanty harvest home. The hardy peasant of the north, whose tedious labors being but scanty reward, contends with all that Nature gives him, meets the returning season of plenty with gladness. And in the sunny south, where the earth blushes tenderly at the sun's first smile, and sends up willingly the tendrils, around whose brow the purple grapes shall cluster, though the laborer cannot claim so large a share in contributing to the glorious harvest that hangs about him; still peasants and maidens as they bear away the baskets filled with the treasures of the vine, sing together their harvest song, and with radiant faces, on the village green, mingle in the dance of the vine-wreath pole in honor of their Harvest Home. If then the vassals of a selfish baron or the tenants of a titled landowner, whose only interest in the soil is the pittance to them after the payment of their exorbitant rental: if these join in exultation over the ripening fields, how much more may the American farmer congratulate himself, as he surveys broad acres all his own: his right in which all are no way subjected to the caprices of a landed aristocrat, or to any tax that does not contribute directly or otherwise to the protection of his interests.

I congratulate you therefore, gentlemen, upon the circumstance which surround you to-day. Placed in the fairest portion of this fertile state, to which your state motto fairly applies the ancient Grecian boast, *si quæris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*, if you would behold a charming peninsula, look around you, placed I say in so favorable a position for the development of agriculture, enjoying the benefit of liberal state legislation, and national freedom, at the close of a season abroad unprecedented in the abundance of its productions, you may appropriately lead in the world's anthem of thanksgiving. The splendid productions of the field, the garden, the dairy, and the stock yard, which surround us here, are evident both of the energy and skill you have employed, and of the abundant success which has crowned your labors during the season. Not in vain have you uprooted the study forest to appropriate the mellow soil over which its shadows have so long brooded; not in vain have you wearily guided the plough over rough places and smooth, through the storm and the sunshine; not in vain have you wistfully and sometimes almost despondingly watched or dreaded the changing temperature, the long continued droughts or the destroying insect. The tender, bursting germ has been fostered by sun and rain to the maturity of the full grown stalk, bearing aloft its golden burden to be surrendered into your hand. And now like the sea worn mariner, who, through perilous shoals and adverse gales, has guided his richly freighted bark safe into port, you, at the close of this summer voyage, meet to count over the profits of the venture.

I do not forget however, gentlemen, that the object of your coming together is not solely to congratulate each other, and satisfy a commendable pride in the excellence of the articles here exhibited. You aim not only to show what you have done, but to inquire how you may do better; to inquire into the means by which the superiority of some productions here on exhibition is attained; to keep pace with the progressive spirit of the age in all that affects agriculture; to compare the experiences of one with those of another, and the results of both with the theories of the man of science, illustrating or confuting them; to learn how best to prepare the soil for the seed and the seed for the soil; how best and most economically to secure and prepare the crop for market.

Upon all these subjects there is progress, day by day, as real as in any department of human investigation. The studies of learned men, the experiments of the working farmer, made under the guidance of increased intelligence, and under new and varied circumstances are adding immensely to this branch of human knowledge. The slow and toilsome manual process is yielding before the strong iron sinews of machinery, and the power of production with a given amount of expenditure vastly increased. We have yet indeed to find a steam plough which shall meet with universal favor, but nearly every other branch of farm labor is brought within the scope of subtle mechanism, and we have reason to believe that this desideratum will not long remain unsupplied.

Upon these matters more intimately connected with the minutia of practical agriculture, I cannot hope that my limited acquaintance with the subject would enable me to interest, much less to instruct you. The science is too comprehensive to be taught by the most learned, in a brief address, and both the science and the art require apprenticeship in order to be appreciated or to afford the material for profitable dissertation. I can only, in passing, allude to one or two points, which strike the transient observer equally as the more interested and scientific enquirer, and knowing as I do that they are trite, and commonplace. I urge the apology of the apostle of old, "I tell you these things not because you know them not, but because you do know them,"

for truths best known and most willingly admitted are by no means most consistently practiced.

First, let me speak of soil robbery, which in spite of the efforts of eminent agriculturists, and the better judgment of its own votaries, is still extensively practiced. The man who, entrusted with public funds, appropriates the smallest fraction thereof to his own private purposes, is condemned as a defaulter and meets a felons doom—but the man who year by year unscrupulously drains the very life blood of his country's soil, and thus embezzles a portion of the nation's wealth, is suffered to go almost unrebuked. The effects of this course are not yet apparent here, as at the east, yet the causes are as surely at work, and stimulated by the overwhelming desire of the western farmer to extend his labors over a wider field than he can properly care for.

Imagine the New Englander whose visions of farm life have never dared to expand beyond the moss grown wall, which enclosed his boyhood's home, who regards the scattering of stones upon the surface, and the tilling of fields up edgeways, as part of the primal, universal curse; where the soil must be uncovered before it could be cultivated, and the few paternal acres hung upon the mountain's side, or scattered in oases of fertility among the rocks, demand the unceasing labor of the husbandman to yield even a scanty sustenance. Let such a man stand for the first time beside one of our mighty western rivers; not a madcap mountain torrent, tumbling down the mountain side, and vanishing instantaneously among the rocks, but a calm, majestic stream, winding gracefully through ever varying scenes of beauty, bearing the burdens, and interlacing as with a silver cord, the interests and sympathies of all who dwell along its shores; or, let him move backward into the solemn stillness of our forests, where the gigantic trees of almost tropical luxuriance, heaving their mighty boughs aloft, and intertwining their corded roots beneath, have for many a year fed upon the exhaustless fatness of the soil; or yet again let him lift up his eyes for the first time upon ten thousand acres of prairie, stretching away until it meets the very disc of the setting sun—the native stock yards of the west; and as he gazes how instinctively will he long for one mighty land warrant to sweep up at one stroke the whole of these Aladdin-like regions. He feels aggrieved that dame Nature should so long have offered him what the Geologist in his case too truly calls "the crust of the earth," to scratch upon, a very dry unpalatable crust, while to her voracious children here she had given a richly buttered slice. He conceives the obstacles to successful farming to be here all removed, and imagines that in soil so nearly self-productive the increase of his wealth will be measured by the dimensions of his land, without reference to the labor expended on it. Accordingly he contents himself only with a small territory sufficient for the establishment of a grand duchy, and a process of scarifying and leeching upon the soil, analogous to that of any other grand duchy upon the people commonwealths.

That eager desire for acquisition which in the land of steady habits expended itself in the enrichment and careful nursing of the soil—here overshoots its aim, and as the natural result, carelessly planted, carelessly tended, carelessly reaped and carelessly stored crops appear in market; an epidemic rheumatism assails the fences, gaunt, overworked and ill fed cattle lift their despondent faces in every corner; and long regiments of noxious weeds, drooping about the door way are the solemn mourners over the departed thrift of the New England farmer. The hope that the wandering mode of life had been abandoned or resigned to the Bedouins must be deferred while the farmer contents and justifies himself with the reflection, that when the fields around him are no longer productive, he has but to strike his tent and move farther on, where new and virgin soil awaits the plow to be in its turn wasted and deserted.

Intimately connected with this matter and arising from the same source, an overwhelming desire for speedy wealth, is another defect in western life—the want of taste and care in the architecture, arrangement and adornment of the country home. Men are slow to be persuaded that it costs no more to build a well formed house than an ungainly, shapeless one, no more to train the fragrant sweet brier around the door and window than to have them bare and open to the sun, no more to straighten and clear up a pathway from the door and line it with the violet and marigold, than to rear a wilderness of dock and pig-weed. These do not indeed add to the plenteousness of the grain crop, they do not in any way perceptibly increase the farmers material wealth, but they add to the growth of that inner life, which is better than "food and raiment"—they plant the seed of tender recollections which will twine about the tender heart of childhood, and through a thousand varied scenes in years far hence, will bring the wanderer back to hours and scenes which never can safely be forgotten. Let no man then despise as useless or unprofitable the taste, which must ornament and render attractive the surroundings of his home.

To another point, gentlemen, let me very briefly call your attention to the value of your forests. There are immense regions westward of you, whose noblest forest growth would be disdained by you as unworthy of your steel—whose immense savannas of unexcelled fertility, are yet useless for human occupation except by the introduction of fencing and building materials from abroad. The supplies for these vast territories Providence has placed in your keeping and placed between you and them a noble inland sea for their transportation. Those supplies though vast are not without limit. The eastern states, once covered with dense forests have in many sections long been almost barren of timber, and felt seriously the injurious effects of its indiscriminate destruction. Considerations of health, as well as economy, have of late years attracted public attention to this matter and necessitated the re-planting of the sites of former forests. When I have called your attention to the immensely increased consumption of wood for manufacturing and railroad use in our day, and especially to the peculiar demands upon your resources from the region I have mentioned, I trust I have said enough to convince you that even the wealth of forest growth which nature has lavished here will be adequate to the wants of yourselves and your neighbors but a short time unless carefully husbanded. The oak, the elm, and the maple do not mature like wheat and corn in a single season. Generations rise and fade away while they are slowly filling out their full proportions. The tender scion springing from the root of the tree you have felled to-day, will, when you and I have wandered far in the dream veiled valleys of old age, and lifted our fading eye upon it for the last time, be still a feeble sapling. Who, then, shall

estimate the value of an uninvaded section of timber land when twenty years shall have covered these hills with waving fields, and the dark recesses of these woods been opened every where to the light of day.

Having thus briefly glanced at matters pertaining to the details of agricultural life, I propose to direct your attention to a subject, in which you are interested, both as farmers, and as members of a common country. I mean the importance and influence of the agricultural element in the formation of the American character.

The preponderance of agricultural interests over all others in our country, is not, I am persuaded, fully appreciated. We are peculiarly an agricultural people. The genius of our country was fairly set forth in the great exhibition at London, where, though we fell behind in the more delicate and complicated branches of competition, our success was complete in agricultural inventions. The countries of the old world, overburdened as they are with population do not afford the means of agricultural employment to the great body of their people. While in our country there are scarcely eight persons to the square mile, there are in England 332, in Holland 259, in Belgium 388, and Sweden and Norway the least densely populated of European countries 16. The commercial population of England is double the agricultural, while in our country the agricultural population comprises one half the entire industrial population of the country, and nearly equals in extent all other branches of labor combined. The constant addition to our cultivated lands, and the growing use of machinery, in their tillage, is yearly increasing the relative strength of this interest.—While according to the census of 1850, with a population of 23,000,000, the value of manufactures was a little over \$1,055,000,000, and that of agricultural products \$956,000,000: the returns for the present year show, with an increase in population of 5,000,000, and addition to manufactured values of 300,000,000, to agricultural products 500,000,000. So that while in 1850 agriculture produced 100,000,000 less, it has this year produced 100,000,000 more than manufactures. Had the dimensions of our country been restricted to the limits of its original organization, we should long since, with an overflowing population, have been compelled to turn our surplus labor into the channel of manufactures, but the additions to our national domain have kept steady pace with the growth of our people, and while the center of population moves steadily westward at the rate of fifteen miles per annum, we have occupied but one-sixth of our national territory and improved but one twelfth of it. Thus possessing the means of self-support within ourselves, and vast resources still to be developed, we may continue to be, as we have been, the granary of the old world.

Such being the composition of our country's character, the interesting inquiry arises, how does this fact bear upon the future prosperity? Does it add to or decrease the dangers which have ever been the accompaniments of free governments?

The history of the progress of man from barbarism to refinement is traced in the physical and intellectual advancement of the individual man, the moral rise of society, and the growing perfection of governmental institutions. If agriculture fosters these, it is to be regarded an essential stimulant to national greatness.

I need pause but a moment to illustrate the fact that agricultural pursuits are conducive to physical improvement. The statistics of mortality declare, that, other things being equal, he whose labors are in the open air will survive the man of sedentary habits, and that of all out door pursuits none foster a more healthful action of all the vital forces than the tilling of the soil. Aside from the injurious effects of the excesses and irregularities of fashionable life, from the corroding influence of the cares of commercial life, and the hereditary weakness of constitution which is so often the lot of the city born, there are in the essential circumstances of this form of life causes of disease and death. The genial rain which elsewhere comes to refresh the longing fields, and the bright sunshine following after with its life renewing power, both bringing gladness to the farmer's heart, here only come, the one to mingle with the refuse of the streets, to dissolve the fragments of decay, the other to waken into life therefrom the deadly malaria, more subtle than the poison of asps. The fruits of the garden, which come to the farmer's table all crisp and fresh from their native soil, reach the city epicure after they are wilted and withered on the huckster's bench, and changed by the destructive processes of nature, from wholesome into health destroying substances. Even the pure breath of the fields, sweeping along the heated thoroughfare, gathering up the thickly rising dust, absorbing ten thousands fetid exhalations, steals at length through the open casement not to breathe refreshingly upon the fevered brow within, but to plant insidiously the seeds of death. Let the dweller amid brick and mortar be suddenly transported from the dust clad haunts of his daily life, and stand on some gentle slope, drink in the unpolluted air, which fanned into coolness by a myriad of leaves, and perfumed with the breath of meadows, is borne to him on the breeze, and how will the fires of the sunken eye rekindle, the drooping pulse quicken its beat, and the whole man awake to new life.

In addition to the other sources of death in the city must be added the pestilence. Often when the harvest of corruption is ripe, the scythe of the destroyer is thrust in, and whole ranks of victims simultaneously fall before it.—No blood sprinkled door-post can here point out the dwellings of the faithful, and avert the course of the death angel. The merchant's palace and the widow's hut, alike are visited and shrouded in despair. Such scenes are almost unknown amid the scattered habitations of the country. There are diseases incidental peculiarly to farm life but they are for the most part temporary local and attended with little fatality. So that the average of health is higher. To the political economist this is a question of interest, for in the physical superiority of the people rests the strongest means of defence against the invader. Our Revolutionary Fathers however heroic and courageous, would have failed without the stern and hardy physical education which enabled them to do what their ardent spirits prompted; with them, while the "spirit was willing," the flesh was by no means weak.

And were the hand of the invader again laid upon us, where, let me ask, would we look for protection? Array two regiments, the one of city, the other of country men upon the field, and before we join the enemy in conflict, let us march along the line and review our forces. Here upon the one side are the sturdy sons of the soil—not the brawny arm here but has wrestled victoriously with the monarch of